Occupation of Ancient Monuments

3349. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of ancient monuments have been forcibly occupied in the Capital for religious purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any responsibility fixed in these cases of forcible occupations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) Some of the centrally protected monuments have been occupied for religious purposes as per the details given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) F.I.R.s have been lodged with the police. The help of law enforcing agencies has been sought to clear the monuments of illegal occupation.

Statement

1.	Mosque at Safdarjung Tomb	:	Religious congregation is organised for Friday Prayers for a temporary period after occupying the mosque forcibly.
2.	Khairul Manazil Mosque	:	Namaz is offered on every Friday during the day time when the mosque is opened to public.
3.	Mosque at Firoz Shah Kotla	:	The mosque at Firoz Shah Kotla is forcibly occupied for a temporary period every night during the month of Ramzan for offering of Namaz. Namaz is also offered regularly every Friday.
4.	Mosque at Sarai Shahji	:	The mosque at Sarai Shahji has been forcibly occupied for running a religious school. Namaz is offered every Friday and during Ramzan as well.
5.	Qudsia Mosque	:	This mosque has been forcibly occupied by a self styled Imam on the pretext of religious activity. The Imam is residing inside the monument.
6.	Sunehri Masjid	:	Namaz is offered daily. Imam is residing permanently inside the monument.
7.	Nili Masjid	:	Namaz is offered only on Fridays during day-time when it is opened for visitors.
8.	Mosque at Afsarwala, Humayun's Tomb	:	-do-
9.	Purana Qila	:	An area has been encroached upon by a temple and Archaeological Survey of India has filed eviction suit and the matter is sub-judice.
10.	Razia Sultan Tomb near Turkman Gate	:	Occupid by a Moulvi for religious activities.
11.	Gandhak-ki-Baoli Graves	:	Encroached upon by a Moulvi for religious purposes.

Agreement between India and Canada

3350. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Canada have recently agreed to establish a working group to combat terrorism and take necessary steps for the expansion and diversification of bilateral cooperation in different fields; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the agreement as well as the progress in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During Canadian Foreign Ministr, Lloyd Axworthy's visit to India in January, 1997, it had been agreed to intensify cooperation between the two Governments to combat terrorism for this purpose.

It was also agreed to establish a Joint Ministerial Committee for intensification of cooperation and consultations between India and Canada in the political as well as in the economic and commercial fields.

The first meetings of both these bodies are expected to take place in the course of this year.

Development of Rural Sports Stadiums

3351. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any schemes for the development of rural sports stadiums; and

(b) if so, the number of schemes approved for the State of Kerala during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) and (b) Central financial assistance is provided for development of stadia in the country under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure. Five stadia were approved for the State of Kerala during the last five years.

There is, however, no separate Scheme for the development of rural stadia.

Haj Pilgrimage

3352. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Haj pilgrims during the last three years;

(b) whether all the Haj pilgrims travel by air or there are still some pilgrims who travel by ships;

(c) the number of Haj pilgrims for the next pilgrimage, State-wise;

(d) the average expenses of travel by air and sea, separately;

(e) whether expenses on Haj Travel is fully borne by pilgrims; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) The number of pilgrims who performed Haj under the arrangements made by the Central Haj Committee stood at 25,685 for 1994, 30,505 for 1995 and 50,346 for 1996.

(b) All pilgrims from India going for Haj now travel by air.

(c) The State-wise number of Haj pilgrims whose applications were accepted for the next Haj pilgrimage under the auspices of Central Haj Committee is as follows :

1.	Andhra Pradesh	1728
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	22
3.	Assam	512
4.	Bihar	924
5.	Chandigarh	3
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6
7.	Daman and Diu	15
8.	Delhi	1746
9.	Goa	15
10.	Gujrat	5280
11.	Haryana	957
12.	Himachal Pradesh	7
13.	J and K	2849
14.	Karnataka	3002
15.	Kerala	4049
16.	Lakshadweep	89
17.	Madhya Pradesh	3198
18.	Maharashtra	8023
19.	Manipur	168
20.	Orissa	91
21.	Pondicherry	35
22.	Punjab	142
23.	Rajasthan	3447
24.	Tamil Nadu	2124
25.	Tripura	19
26.	Uttar Pradesh	13936
27.	West Bengal	1438

(d) to (f) Expenditure on Haj travel is partly met by Government subsidy. Average expenses of travel by air, after subsidy, were Rs. 12,000/- for the last pilgrimage. Facility for Haj travel from India by sea is not available. Hence, the average expenses of travel by sea is not available.

CGWB to Tubewels

3353. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government Ground Water Board has since worked out a scheme for installation of tubewells in the Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Ground Water Board has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for investigation and development of ground water in Eastern States comprising the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Eastern Madhya Pradesh. Under this Scheme, 16,125 shallow tubewells and 1100 medium tubewells are proposed to be constructed in these States at an estimated cost of Rs. 136.50 crore to be shared by the Central Government, State Government and beneficiaries in the ratio of 60:30:10. The Scheme is still at consultation stage.